

## BOOKS ON LANCASHIRE PUBLISHED IN 1952

Murray, A. L., *The Royal Grammar School, Lancaster*, Cambridge, pp. xiii, 258, ill.

This volume traces with unusual detail the history of the Chantry School and Grammar School at Lancaster from the early thirteenth century to 1951.

Lofthouse, J., *Lancashire's Fair Face*, pp. 336, ill.

Another volume of Miss Lofthouse's peregrinations, this time covering the area between the Ribble and Lune. Although it gives him no original material, the volume does contain much of interest to the local historian.

Houghton, A. T. R., *The Ribble Salmon Fisheries*, Altrincham, pp. 125, ill.

Tracing the history of salmon fishing in the Ribble from mediaeval times, this work includes information concerning the development of methods of fishing, the coming of water pollution in the nineteenth century, and the development of control in more recent times.

Parkinson, C. N., *The Rise of the Port of Liverpool*, pp. vii, 163, ill.

Based upon a course of university extension lectures, this book is a most useful complement to numerous histories of Liverpool already on our shelves. Original material has been based upon a wide reading of printed sources, and the volume has been presented in an eminently readable manner.

Pape, T., *The Charters of the City of Lancaster*, Lancaster, pp. 80, ill.

This contains rather more information than is suggested by the title, as it explains, albeit briefly, other aspects of the development of local government in the county town.

Clare, R. L., *A Short History of North Meols*, Southport, pp. 54, ill.

This rather unusual volume is principally a discussion of the interest of the Hesketh family in the history of their manor.

"John o' Gaunt", *Your Lancashire*, Preston, pp. 128, ill.

This book reprints a selection of the bi-weekly contributions to the *Lancashire Evening Post*, illustrating by text and drawing a great variety of incidents in Lancashire history.

## RECENT BOOKS ON CHESHIRE

Hopkins, A., *Selected Rolls of the Chester City Courts*, Manchester, pp. lxx, 138.

This volume (Chetham Society Ser. III, Vol. 2) deals with a number of the earliest Rolls of the Portmote, Crownmote and Pentice Courts between the years 1295 and 1331, throwing much light on the early history of the City. The Rolls are printed in extended Latin which makes the volume a very useful one for the guidance of future students.

Willan, T. S., *The Navigation of the River Weaver in the Eighteenth Century*, Manchester, pp. ix, 235, ill.

Another publication of the Chetham Society (Ser. III, Vol. 3), with a map and reproductions of nine original plans; dealing with the extensive river works carried out on the Weaver during the eighteenth century, it constitutes a valuable contribution to the history of the Salt trade in Cheshire.

Groombridge, Margaret J., *Guide to the Charters, Plate and Insignia of the City of Chester*, Chester, pp. 52, ill.

In addition to short English abstracts of charters granted to the City by the Norman Earls of Chester and the Crown, the *Guide* includes a selection of documents relating to events in the history of Chester; particulars of the seals, insignia, and plate are added.

Irvine, A. S., *A history of Winnington Hall*, Stockport, pp. 48, ill.

Issued by the Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., it covers briefly the history of Winnington from the time of Domesday to the present, when after various changes the Hall has settled down as the Guest House and Senior Staff Club of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. Excellent plans and views, and pedigrees of some of the families, who from time to time have owned the Hall, are included.

Green, Roger Lancelyn, *Poulton Lancelyn—the Story of an Ancestral Home*, Oxford, pp. 86, ill.

An attractively written story of the descent of the manor of Poulton-Lancelyn from the time of the Conquest to the present day. Here is original research told in careful detail with great poetic charm.

Castle, G. E. and Bushby, Major, *Willaston (Wirral) Scrap-Book*, Neston, pp. 76, ill.

This collection relating to Willaston-in-Wirral, the work of numerous helpers from among the members of the Women's Institute, is edited by Mrs. G. E. Castle and Major Bushby. It is a remarkable example of teamwork and is distinguished by a profusion of excellent illustrations.

Haworth, D. and Comber, W. M., *Cheshire Village Memories*, Witchurch pp. 128, ill.

Another example of the activities of the Women's Institutes, this time including extracts from 74 Village Scrap-Books throughout Cheshire with two maps and an astonishingly large collection of interesting views. The book begins with a foreword by Sir Stephen Tallents. Lady Haworth and Miss Comber are to be congratulated on their successful selecting and editing of this abundant material.

Barraclough, Geoffrey, *The Earldom and County Palatine of Chester*, Oxford, pp. 39, ill.

Reprinted from *TRANSACTIONS*, Vol. 103, this paper is of outstanding importance to students of English constitutional history as well as to local historians. It seems finally to settle the vexed question of the origin of the County Palatine.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL BULLETIN FOR GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND 1948-1949

Council for British Archaeology, London 1952, pp. 102, x.

THIS unpretentious little volume is a record of archaeological endeavour. It sounds unexciting, but in point of fact it presents to the reader an impressive picture of archaeological progress in the British Isles during 1948-49, and it will be indispensable to all who wish to keep in touch with advances in British archaeology. The material recorded consists of finds, discoveries, excavations and publications. It is arranged in two sections, first topographically and then in the form of a bibliography. The topographical section is divided into counties and then sub-divided into periods. Here one may see at a glance, for example, what work has been done on heraldic glass in Lancashire or on church bells in Cheshire. One may also compare archaeological activity county by county; for once Cheshire seems to be ahead of Lancashire, but neither of our counties rank with Berkshire, Devonshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Kent, Norfolk and Wiltshire—to name only a few of the far too many shires which seem to be archaeologically more active than Lancashire and Cheshire. Our archaeologists are of high quality but they are too few in number.

It would be easy to find fault with the lists provided. Why is such and such an excavation omitted? On what grounds do Pipe Rolls and seventeenth-century markets earn a place in an archaeological record? And why are there so many errors and misprints? The reviewer could hardly fail to notice that two of the three references to his own work are hopelessly inaccurate, though there is no reason to believe that this proportion of error represents the average. A moment's thought for the difficulties of the editorial staff, however, will modify if it does not silence our complaints and criticisms. The compilation and subsequent arrangement of so many items of information must impose a heavy strain on the Council's limited editorial resources. The *Bulletin* is a tremendously useful piece of equipment for archaeologists, and it is only one of many great benefits conferred upon scholars by the Council for British Archaeology. All members of affiliated societies ought to possess a copy of the *Bulletin*, which may be obtained from the Council's new headquarters at 10 Bolton Gardens, London, S.W.5.

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